a number of steps to boost export of textile items, including cotton fabrics like modernization of textile industry by allowing import of textile machinery at concessional duty, organising buyer seller meets and participation in fairs, providing adequate encouragement to manufacturer- exporters and non-quota exports through Textile Quota Policy etc. As a result of the measures taken, cotton fabric exports have recorded substantial growth during 91- January 92 amounted to Rs. 1274 crores which is 46% higher than the exports of Rs. 871 crores during the corresponding period of 90-91. The recently introduced Liberalized Exchange Rate Management System is expected to boost exports further.

[*English*]

Prices of Equities /Debentures In securities Market

3901. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a boom in the prices of equities/debentures in the securities market due to the excess speculations activities by the Mutual Funds and Financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details of shares/debentures purchased or sold on delivery or non-delivery (forward translations) by these Financial Institutions/ Mutual Funds during each of the last three years, company and institution-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to unload the outstanding positions maintained by these financial institutions in the securities market to control the rising trend particularly in the interest of the small investors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Mutual Funds and Financial Institutions do not indulge in speculative activities and it is, therefore, not correct to attribute the boom in share prices to their activities. The Securities and Exchange Board of India monitors the activities of Mutual funds.

Development of Handloom Sector for Exports

3902. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured protection to handloom sector from the operational difficulties as reported in the Economic Times dated January 28, 1992;

(b) if so, the details of the programme worked out with special reference to Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and other States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government ensure maximum exports of handlooms and retain the maximum of mill cloth for domestic centres and cash on preference abroad for handlooms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). In order to preserve the unique role of handlooms and also to improve the solid-economic conditions of the handloom weavers, Government including Karnataka, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh:-

(i) The Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme to ensure production of hank yarn for the handloom sector;

(ii) Loan assistance towards share capital participation in weavers cooperative spinning mills for production of yarn for the handloom sector;

(iii) Assistance to the National Handloom Development Corporation for their yarn supply operations and development activities;

(iv) Janata Cloth Scheme;

(v) Welfare measures under Thrift Fund Scheme and Workshed-cum - Housing Scheme;

(vi Assistance for setting up of Preloom and Post -loom processing facilities;

(vii) Assistance for modernisation of looms;

(viii) Scheme of decentralised training to train weavers on improved technology ;

(ix) Design support and provision of technological inputs through a number of Weavers' Service Centres in the country;

(x) A number of fiscal concessions to the handloom sector to remove the cost handlooms vis-a-vis the powerlooms;

(xi) Providing Market Development Assistance to the handloom organisations;

(xii) Special rebate on sales of handloom goods at the national Handloom Expos;

(xiii) Assistance for setting up of marketing complexes by national and State Handloom Agencies; and

(xiv) Assistance for National Design Collection Programmes for the promotion of unique weaves and designs through Exhibition-cum -sales.

In addition to the above a few new schemes have been introduced during the year 1991-92. They are (i) Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme; (ii) Margin for Destitute Weavers; and (iii) New Project Package Scheme. The Thrift Fund Scheme has been revised and has been expanded to include weavers outside the cooperative fold also. The unit cost for Workshed-cum-Housing has been upgraded and provision for electrification and land cost included in the unit cost.

Among several measures taken to intervene effectively and to prevent deterioration of condition of handloom weavers, some of the steps with reference to Andhra Pradesh are outlined below:-

(a) Additional target of 5 million square metres of Janata Cloth was allotted to Andhra Pradesh and for this purpose a sum of Rs. 127 lakhs was advanced. The allocation was inintially restricted to districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam but as per the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh they have also been allowed to use part of the additional target in other parts of the State. This is in addition to the initial target of 52 million square metres.

(b) For non-janata cloth, APCO was given an additional allocation for Market Development Assistance to enable it to procure cloth worth Rs. 2 crores.

(c) A new scheme called 'Margin Money for Destitute Weavers' has been introduced

in the country so as to cover on an average 200 weavers per district. Keeping in view the indigent conditions of weavers in Andhra Pradesh eight additional societies in the 4 district were sanctioned. This will provide long term organisational support to weavers and provide reasonable protection to them from the vagaries of market.

(d) In order to improve the marketability of the products and upgradation of skill of weavers, decentralised training was sanctioned for 300 weavers. The trainees would also be provided with improved accessories.

(e) A Group Insurance Scheme to cover 12,000 weavers in the districts of Guntur, Krishna and Prakasam has been sanctioned and the sheer of Government of India released.

(f) Government of Andhra Pradesh has restored the earlier position which provided for priority in procurement for Government supplies to the handloom sector and handloom agencies.

(g) Government of Andhra Pradesh has arranged distribution of ex-gratis of Rs. 5,000 per family of deceased weaver through non-government agencies. 72 families have been provided such assistance.

(h) 2455 weavers have been sanctioned loans @ Rs. 1,000/- by commercial banks.

(i) Weakness if primary societies has been one of the problems. Apart from the scheme meant for destitute weaves referred to above, Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken steps to hold fresh elections for weavers cooperative societies all over the State so as to revitalise them.

(d) Indian texture and clothing exports are the single biggest commodity exported from the country, accounting for about 25% of all Indian exports. The total handloom exports constitute 10% of the overall textile and clothing exports in the country. Considering the need to earn foreign exchange, it may not be possible to retain mill cloth for domestic market. Government have however been taking a number of steps to boost exports of handloom products. Under the new quota policy, 3% of textiles quota and 2% of garments quota has been reserved for handlooms.

Loans under PL 480

3903. DR. RAVI MALLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been receiving grants under PL: 480 and other programmes from USAID & UNDP;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating sums received and utilised during the last three years;

(c) whether any independent evaluation has been made about the impact of these grants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating improvements proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The grants received and utilised under PL: 480 (Title II) of USAID are as follows:-

Indian Fiscal year	*value of the commodity received including onfreight*
	US $ (thousand)
Cooperative for American Relief Every where Programme (CARE)	
1989-90	62601
1990-91	78268
1991-92 (upto Dec., '91)	49445